

## Sexual assault reported at University Village

TAYLOR MULLER  
ASST. SECTION EDITOR

On Feb. 11, a resident of the University Village dorms reported being sexually assaulted, according to the Campus Crime Log. The incident was reported to Omaha Police Department and is the sixth reported sexual assault in the last 10 months, four of which took place in university dormitories.

According to the crime log, the incident occurred at 1:45 a.m. In a letter to the *Gateway*, Assistant Manager of Campus Security Paul Kosel said "the suspect gained access to the room through the unlocked main door."

There was no description of the suspect in the police report since the victim was approached from behind, according to the police report.

This is the fourth sexual assault that has been reported from the dorms in the last 10 months, including both Scott Village and University Village. Two other sexual assaults, taking place in Elmwood Park, have also been reported in the last 10 months.

Kosel continued in his letter, "flyers were distributed at University Village reminding residents of safety precautions." These flyers, posted by the University Village Management Team, included a description of the most recent assault, tips for resident safety and a phone number for the resident assistant on duty.

Calls made by the *Gateway* to the number were not immediately returned.

"Please remember that your safety, as well as that of your possessions, is your responsibility and that of the local law enforcement agencies," according to the flyer.

An RA for University Village, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said

"security is naturally a concern," and that "something needs to be done."

Currently, both the vehicle gate and pedestrian gate are kept open, due to the locks freezing up during cold weather, the RA said.

"I went around and talked to all of my girl residents to let them know about the assault," said the RA.

The RA confirmed the pass-code for the pedestrian gate has not been changed since last year and that the gates have been open for the past few months.

Security of the dorms, said the RA, falls upon the individual resident, but Campus Security has not been doing enough to secure the campus' safety.

"There's a lot Campus Security needs to work on," said the RA. "They're quick to give tickets at UV, but they don't do much otherwise."

While the residents are expected to maintain their own safety, by using deadbolts and general safety tips, many residents were not concerned about their personal safety while in the dorms.

Freshman Hershail Davison, an undeclared major and resident of University Village, said that despite the gates being open, he was "only a little bit" concerned about his safety. He had not seen any of the flyers or heard of the reported assault, but figured more should be done to secure the safety of the residents.

**Editor's note:** Gateway policy is to withhold names and graphic details from published reports of sexual assaults and similar crimes.

That information was included in the public records obtained, but it was withheld to protect the victim's right to privacy.



photo by Patrick Doty

### Faceoff

Maverick forward Dan Charleston shows off a few moves for 5-year-old Kyle Wernli Sunday afternoon at the Dundee Skating Rink on 53rd and Underwood streets. Several members of the UNO hockey team offered advice, signed autographs and skated with children on the mild, sunny afternoon.

For more, including hockey coverage, see pg. 8.

## Pre-trial hearing looks at evidence in case of missing sophomore



TAYLOR MULLER  
ASST. SECTION EDITOR

Lines were drawn in the sand for the upcoming legal battle facing Christopher Edwards, who is charged with the second-degree murder of Jessica O'Grady, a UNO sophomore.

Edward's attorneys and county prosecutors clashed over what evidence clashed over what evidence would be admissible when the trial starts on March 19.

O'Grady was last heard from on

May 10, 2006, when she was reportedly on her way to Edwards' residence.

While the hearing touched upon each side's motion *in limine*, the defense secured there would be no testimony presented by the State regarding the amount of blood found in Edwards' residence.

A motion *in limine* seeks to limit the kind of evidence that can be presented in the trial.

"When they see the mattress, every reasonable human being is going to say, 'That's a lot of blood,'" said Steve Lefler during the hearing.

Lefler is one of Edwards' attorneys,

See **O'GRADY:** Page 3

## Creation of GLBTQIA agency given thumbs-up by student government

### Student Senate

SCOTT STEWART  
NEWS EDITOR

UNO's student government created a new student agency at its senate meeting last Thursday, marking the end of a long battle over whether or not to create the organization.

The gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex and ally, or GLBTQIA, agency was approved by senators in an 18-1 vote, with six senators abstaining, the vote came after comments by the resolution's sponsor, Gabriel Gonzalez, and a few questions, including one asking what the "I" in "GLBTQIA" stood for.

"Well, it depends on who you ask and

where you're at," Gonzalez said.

He went on to say that "intersex" has become a less frequently used term for a hermaphrodite, or someone of an indeterminate gender, who may have genitalia or secondary sexual characteristics of both sexes. One alternative he suggested was "interested," although the presence of "questioning" in the acronym might already include those people.

"This is not going to be the name of the agency," Gonzalez said. He told senators the agency's name, location, funding and other details would be worked out at a later time.

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## Talking turkey about the taxman: tips for preparing for your return

ANGI SADA  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

They say there are only two certainties in life: death and taxes. Unfortunately they, whomever they happen to be, also left out cellulite and that taxes don't have to be painful. Keeping a few important facts in the forefront of your mind as tax season progresses will keep stress levels bearable. Hopefully, these tips will keep refunds high or repayments low, too.

### Get your stuff together.

Don't start without all of the required forms. The Internal Revenue Service receives copies of every document or corresponding documentation from your lenders, employers, financial institutions and universities, because they all have to cover their tails and pony up to Uncle Sam, too.

### Pace yourself.

Start early and take your time. It seems pretty basic, but there is always a line of cars outside the local post offices on April 15.

Allowing yourself more than an hour to do your taxes ensures a minimum of errors that could slow your refund from arriving, increase the amount of your repayment or possibly lead to an audit.

Also, taking a few minutes before you hit the transmit button on your computer or sealing the envelope to make sure you've covered all the bases helps permit these sorts of buzz-kill moments.

### License and registration, please.

Several states, including Nebraska, allow taxpayers to claim a deduction on the state property taxes (not the sales taxes) paid on annual vehicle registration. This means it's not a bad thing to be asked for your pink slip for a change.

### Interest-ing point.

The interest you pay on those college loans could come full circle and wind up right back in your pocket. If you've paid enough on them you can get some of that money back. Wait for the financial institution from which you receive your loan money to send you an IRS Form 1098. You should receive one from your university or college, too.

On a related point, if you accepted work-study employment, look at how you received payment for it. If

you actually received a paycheck, chances are high you already paid taxes on that income. If it was credited directly to your account, you probably didn't pay any taxes on that income. You may want to have a little jingle in your pocket to make up for that when tax repayment time comes along.

### Stake your claim.

There is more in that bag headed to the thrift store than your least-favorite Christmas sweater from Aunt Gertrude. There is a potential deduction. If you make

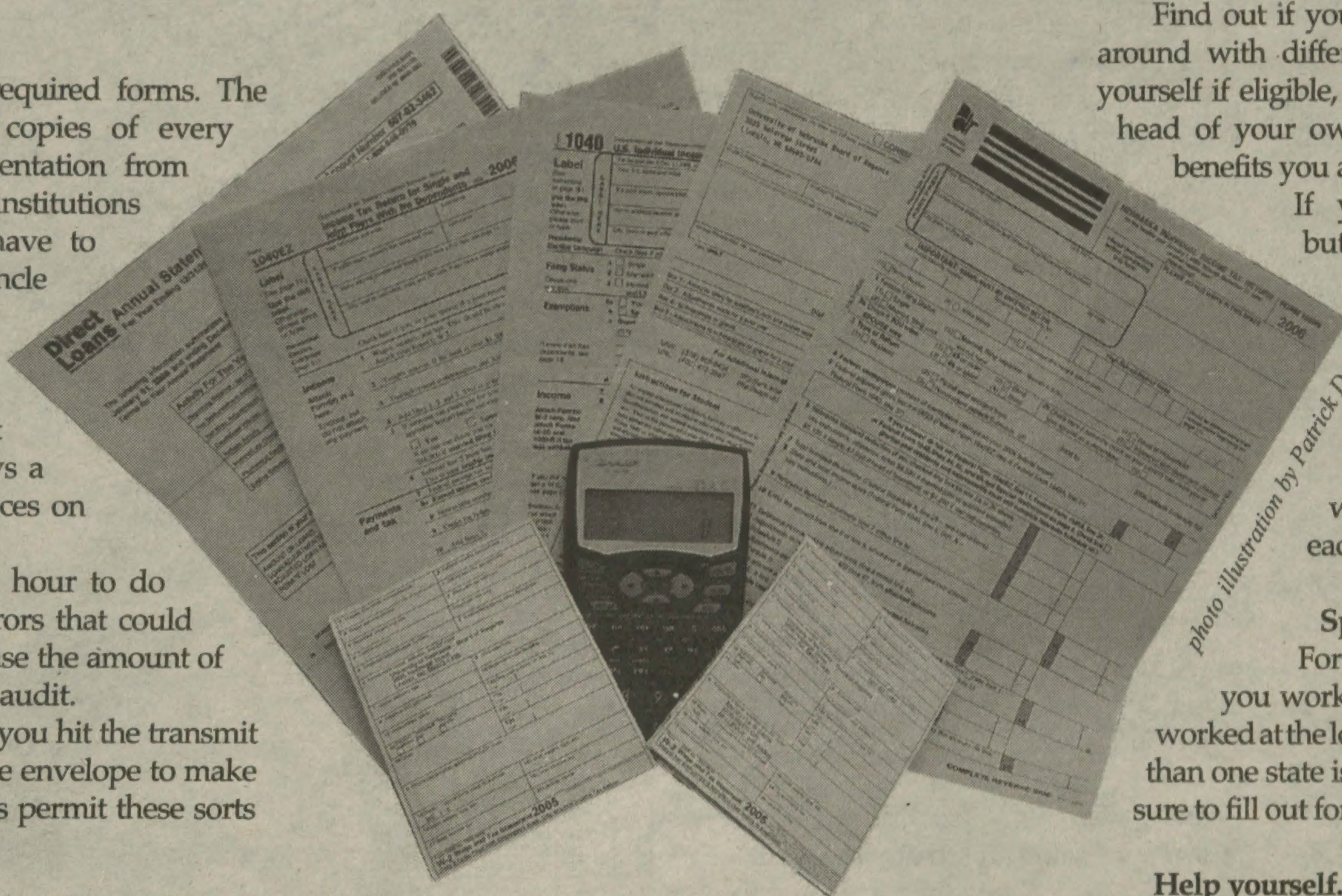


Photo illustration by Patrick Doty

enough to do an

itemized return: do it. Get receipts for your charitable donations. It doesn't make the act of sharing with a homeless shelter less heartfelt. It makes it symbiotic.

### Take credit where credit is due.

The Hope and Lifetime Learning credits and higher education expense deduction programs allow you to claim a certain amount of your tuition, books and supply costs from your taxes. You can only claim one of these credits in a single year. You may claim the Hope Credit only for your freshman and sophomore years (no more than twice) and the Lifetime Learning credit once. Smart money says wait until your senior year or, if you have enough foresight, the year you know you will spend the most money on tuition, fees and supplies.

Higher education expense deductions will allow you to claim, depending on your income, up to \$4,000 each year.

The tricky part is gauging whether the deductions or the credits will behoove you. The credits, according to bankrate.com, reduce the amount you owe and the deductions changes the amount of income on which you are required to pay.

### Who's your daddy?

Find out if your parents are still claiming you. Dink around with different tax scenarios, e.g., you claiming yourself if eligible, your folks claiming you, you filing as head of your own household. See which way legally benefits you and your family the best.

If you are essentially self-supporting, but your folks have been claiming you still see which one will bring in the greater refund or smallest repayment obligation. Then, be a grown-up and offer to split the more advantageous plan for everyone. If more than one filer claims the same individual there will be guaranteed IRS nasty-grams in each offender's mailbox.

### Speaking of mailboxes...

For out-of-state students this gets tricky. If you worked a summer job back home and then worked at the local coffee shop right off of campus, more than one state is going to want a piece of the pie. Make sure to fill out forms for each state in which you worked.

### Help yourself.

Several offices around town and many campuses offer tax assistance. There are offices on many military bases that will do it for you for free if you are eligible. The IRS offices in downtown Omaha can help, but you need to make an appointment as soon as possible.

There are also tax preparation firms all over the place. You can drop your taxes of while you grocery shop and come back to sign forms after you're all bagged up.

All of these things really are the tip of the tax iceberg, but forgetting one could drag you down Titanic-style. There are more tips available online. For direct links go to unogateway.com

## News You Can Use

COMPILED BY  
KEENA SPENCER-DOBSON  
STAFF WRITER

### Poker Fun Walk/Run to be held Feb. 22

In honor of the founding of the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association, Campus Recreation will be hosting the seventh annual Poker Fun Walk/Run. This free event will be held Thursday, Feb. 22, at noon in the Milo Bail Student Center Plaza.

In the case of inclement weather, the walk/run will be held on the Health, Physical Education and Recreation building's indoor track.

Participants will cover a 1.5-mile course around the UNO campus, where playing card will be handed out during the walk/run and prizes will be awarded for the best poker hands at the completion of the event. Door prizes will also be awarded.

Registration will be available the day of the event. Participants wishing to register before this time can call the Campus Recreation office at 554-2539.

### 'Seven Days of Service' provides spring break opportunity

The program "Seven Days of Service" is an opportunity for UNO students to refurbish and renovate homes for low-income families. This program runs during spring break, March 10 to 17.

Interested students can sign up for this program

at the Eppley Administration Building Information Desk or Arts and Sciences Hall Room 220.

### Parking lot closings

Additional parking spaces will be closed starting Thursday, Feb. 22, to remodel the Engineering Building. The closings are as follows:

Lot N - The fenced enclosure will be extended further to the south.

Lot P - All spaces will be closed.

Lot Q - Some spaces will be closed in the curved portion directly south of the Engineering Building.

### Nickel and Dimed opens Feb. 23

The production of *Nickel and Dimed* presented by the UNO Department of Theatre will open Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

This production is based on the book *Nickel and Dimed* by journalist Barbara Ehrenreich. It attempts to answer the question, "Can a middle-aged, middle-class white woman make it on minimum wage in middle America?"

A preview of this show will be held Thursday, Feb. 22, with additional performances on Feb. 23, 24 and 28 as well as March 1, 2 and 3. All shows start at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the theatre located in the Weber Fine Arts Building.

Tickets cost \$15 for general admission and \$12 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at the box office, via e-mail at unoboxoffice@mail.unomaha.edu or by phone at 554-2335.

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From **SENATE**: Page 1

The agency's creation brought to a close a heated debate within the senate about the idea, which began in earnest last fall year when the Student Activities Budget Commission voted to set aside money for the creation of a student agency. This resulted in a resolution last October to prohibit SABC from allocating student fees to entities not "previously prescribed in a Student Senate Resolution."

Later that month, a resolution authored by Gonzalez to establish the agency failed the budget committee and student government conducted an opinion poll during the student elections, where about 42 percent of voters approved of the agency, 36 percent opposed it and more than 20 percent offered no response.

"I think that we've hit an important milestone on our campus," Student President/Regent Alexander Williams said after the meeting regarding the agency's creation. "It's about time."

Gonzalez shared William's praise for the decision.

"I'm definitely very pleased that it passed," Gonzalez said. "It's good to know senators here are supportive of

that cause."

In other business Thursday, the senate passed articles of impeachment for Sam Haddad for failing to meet attendance requirements. Senators also approved the allocation of \$100 to purchase tickets for volunteers at International Student Services' International Banquet on March 3 as well as \$1,600 to send Williams to the American Student Government Association's National Convention in Washington, D.C., from Sept. 27 to 30, 2007.

"It's the largest networking thing for all the student governments in the nation," Williams said after the meeting. "The conference is very vital."

Chief Administrative Officer Kyla Sanden, who is serving as interim executive treasurer following the resignation of Kristy Swirzinski, addressed concerns raised by a couple senators last week by distributing a list of purchases by members of the executive branch since January.

Former Legislative and Public Relations Officer Latavia Adams, who was removed from her post following a decision by the student court on Feb. 14, told

senators that a few of the big-ticket items on the list were purchased from her advertising budget, including \$340.50 for "Thunderstixs," which were distributed to hockey fans riding student government-sponsored busses, and \$192 for a student government banner.

Other big-ticket items included \$123.46 for a chair in Vice President Mike White's office, \$175.39 for a file cabinet, \$198.22 for bookcases that were split between White's and Williams' offices as well as \$492.58 to replace the desk in Williams' office.

"The desk was literally falling apart," Sanden said, noting that past presidents had commented to her that the desk was a "vital need" for student government.

Student government will hold its next senate session on March 1 at 7 p.m. in the student center.

From **O'GRADY**: Page 1

representing him alongside Matt Higgins and Denise Frost.

The defense also sought to prevent the prosecution from providing "any reference to an alleged pregnancy of Jessica O'Grady," according to the motion.

County Prosecutor Leigh Ann Retelsdorf said the relevance of her possible pregnancy was in how it affected Edwards' state of mind.

"There's evidence in the investigation that Miss O'Grady told her close friends that she was pregnant," said Retelsdorf. "This took place within days of her disappearance."

The judge ruled that a decision was "hard to make in the abstract," but decided that the matter would be dealt with when it came up during the trial.

Lefler has already filed a motion to change venue, citing media coverage and influence on the jury. The motion was denied.

When Retelsdorf explained that a specific incident took place "months before the murder," Lefler brought to the attention of the judge that "she's already slipped into calling it a murder," to which Retelsdorf

responded, "I didn't slip."

Family of Edwards' and O'Grady's were both present at the hearing, which according to reports led to some friction at the end of the hearing, when Edwards' father attempted to shield his son from the media's cameras.

O'Grady's family declined to comment, not wanting to give any reason for a mistrial.

The trial is set to begin March 19, with jury selection.

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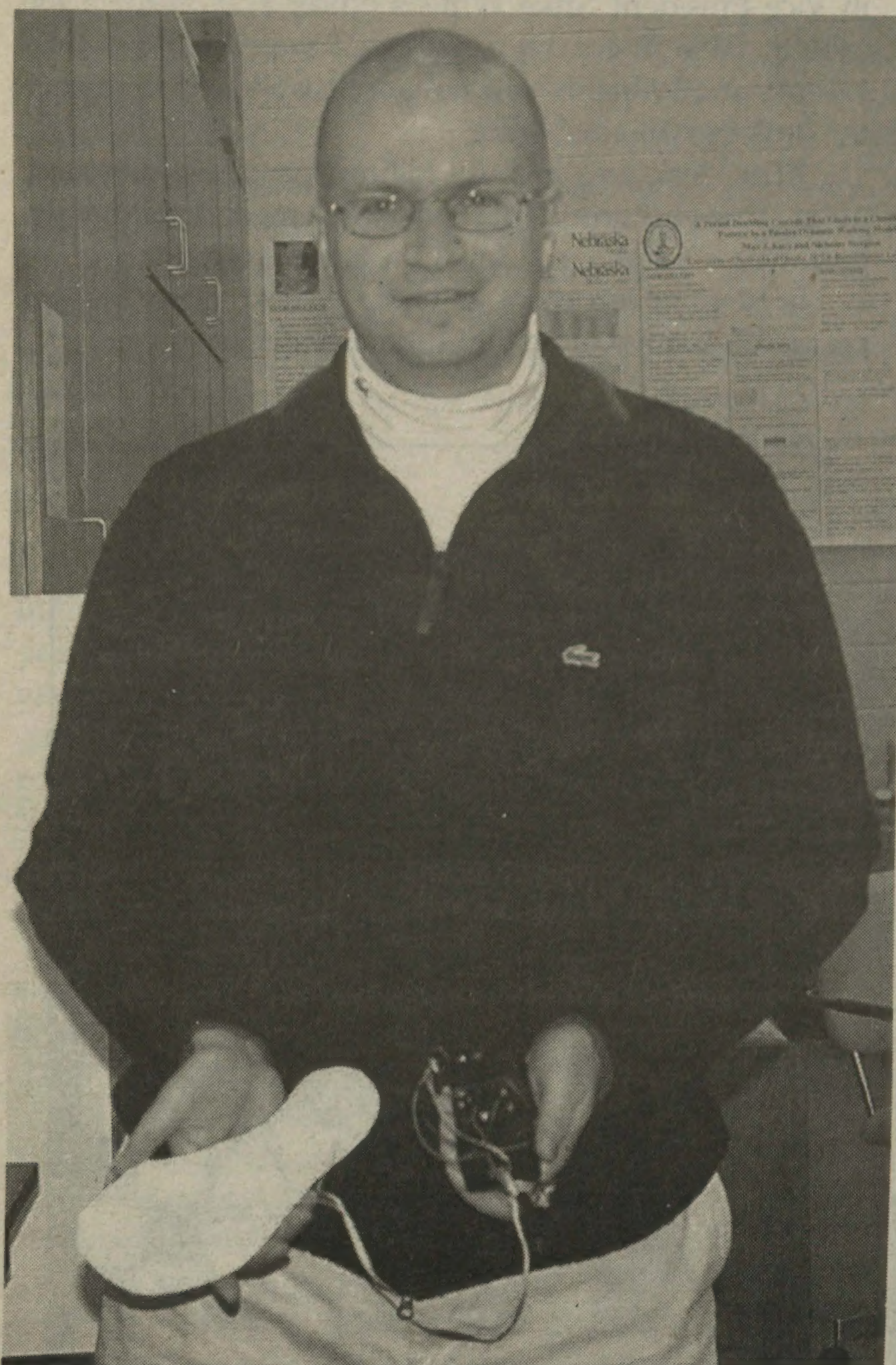
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## HPER professor gives double meaning to the 'sole' of a Maverick



Nicholas Stergiou has helped more than 1,500 people find the 'perfect' pair of shoes.

CHARLEY REED  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

someone in Omaha knew about insoles," Stergiou said. "That was Dr. Burke. Chris Burke."

Burke's study was a rare find for Stergiou, who did his undergraduate thesis on how sports shoes prevent injuries. The study was also rare because it was the only study Burke ever did involving shoes.

"I said, well, they are experts over there at UNO," Stergiou explained with a laugh. "When I came here I realized I couldn't do a lot of things about shoe research, but I could still get a solid foundation in biomechanics."

After graduation, Stergiou's interest in shoes led him to a biomechanics Ph.D. program at the University of Oregon, which he called the "Mecca of running."

"[It's] where the legends run," he explained. "Sure enough, I was right in the middle of it."

After Stergiou completed his doctorate he returned to Greece. He joined the military while looking for jobs in the civilian world, but found none.

However, he soon got word of a job offer at UNO from Daniel Blanke, director of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, whom Stergiou had worked under during his time at UNO. He applied, got the job and never looked back.

"When I came back I really fell for the place," Stergiou said. "The reason I like Omaha so much is because we are like a small-town mentality, but in a big town. I love that."

Over the past 11 years, Stergiou has used his expertise in the field of biomechanics to solve clinical problems, particularly in infants and the elderly.

"I felt like, OK, sports shoes are great, they can prevent sports injuries," he said. "But there are some really serious problems out there, so I figured I better use my talents towards those problems."

Stergiou's areas of research are vast, ranging from training surgeons to use robots to operate, finding treatments for peripheral arterial disease, determining the proper ways babies should sit and how diseases like cerebral palsy might affect their motor skills development.

"[Sitting] is so important because then the baby can sit upright and start exploring the environment, reach, see what's going on," he said. "We can see how a baby with developmental disabilities is sitting, and then provide them treatments in order

for us to get them to sit. Then maybe they can stand better or walk better."

The research, which is aided by fellow researchers at the Munroe-Meyer Institute at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, is funded both by a five-year grant from the National Center of Medical Rehabilitation and a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Stergiou was quick to proclaim that it is "the only research of its kind on the planet."

But his proclamation was followed by praise for UNO graduate students who help with the research.

"Here at UNO, we have the best kids, in my opinion," he said. "Because our kids work full-time jobs and at the same time they go to school, usually. That's spectacular."

Stergiou's students also help him with a niche service that has garnered him the name "the shoe guy." As part of a way to raise funds for graduate students to visit conferences, Stergiou began offering to measure a person's biomechanical movement to determine what their perfect shoe selection would be.

"We collect a lot of different data, dynamically and statically," he said. "Then we send you home a report that details not only what types of shoes you should wear, with a list of different shoes, we also give you a stretching routine, some strength training advice and stuff like that."

Over the 10 years Stergiou has run the service, it has reached more than 1,500 people, some as far away as Alaska. While he is happy with the success of the program, his work with shoes is increasingly becoming a distant memory.

"In comparison to what I'm doing now [it's] like night and day," Stergiou said. "I mean, I'm proud for what I did as a doctoral student, certainly, but what I'm doing now, it has so much more impact."

Stergiou's loftiest dream, if he could have his way, would be to make UNO world-renowned for its research capabilities.

"Personally, I love UNO. If you opened my heart you'd find UNO in there," Stergiou said with a smile. "And I want every single one of our students to be proud of UNO."

Stergiou is currently looking for children to participate in his research. Those interested in helping must have a child less than one year old and can call the Monroe-Meyer Institute at 559-6415.

## Fraternity anticipates success for third charity poker tournament

CHARLEY REED  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

To the men of the Theta Chi fraternity, a spade isn't just a card: it's a gateway to charity.

Theta Chi will host the "Hearts Charity Poker Tournament" on Thursday, Feb. 22, for the third time in two years. The game is Texas Hold 'Em, and the fraternity members said they hope a \$10 buy-in and the chance to win prizes will help bring people together to raise money for the McCauley Center, a home for battered and abused women.

"As a fraternity, we get bad raps about how we treat women, you know," said Dan Mackevicius, a junior and member of Theta Chi. "So we just thought it would be a good PR thing to help out a cause like that."

Theta Chi has done numerous things for the McCauley Center in the past, including a benefit concert in September called "Rockfest."

"It's kind of our adopted [philanthropic cause]," Mackevicius said.

Sophomore Brandt John helped spearhead the first hearts tournament

in November 2005. Along with his dad, he was able to donate several items as raffle prizes that helped make the event an early success.

John said the first tournament had a turnout of about 10 to 15 people, and the group raised about \$300 to \$400. The second tournament had approximately the same number of players, but the group raised \$400 to \$500, he said.

This year, numerous prizes have been donated by current members as well as fraternity alumni for a silent auction. The prizes range from a box of cigars to certificates for tattoos and piercings.

Mackevicius and John aren't sure how many people will turn

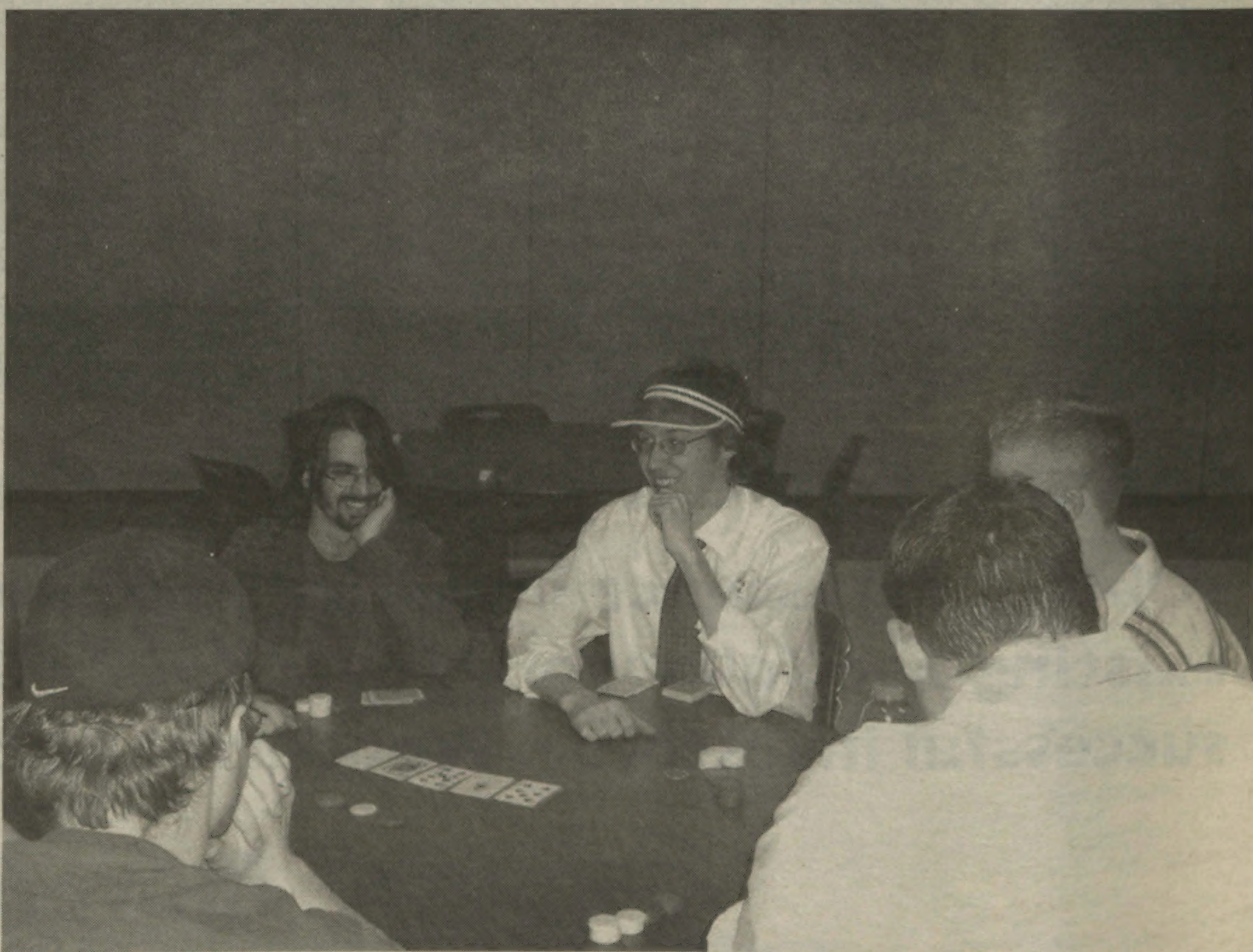


photo courtesy of Dan Mackevicius

See **POKER**: Page 7

Members of the Theta Chi fraternity raised approximately \$400 to \$500 for charity last year playing Texas Hold 'Em.



# Campus Security

Eppley Administration Building, Rm 100

## Here to Help You!

### *Security*

- Buildings are patrolled 24 hours daily.

### *Personal Safety Checks*

- Individuals who may be working alone outside normal hours are encouraged to contact Campus Security. Security officers will periodically check on your safety while you are here.

### *Extras*

- Campus Security provides assistance to motorists 24 hours daily, to jump-start your vehicle, open a locked vehicle and change a tire in certain situations. For vehicles on campus only.

### *Emergency Messages*

- Should your family or friends need to have an emergency message delivered while you are in class or on campus, have them contact Campus Security. Emergency messages will be delivered in case of a medical emergency or a matter of life or death.

### *Personal Escorts*

- The escort service is available 24-7 for individuals on campus. Contact Campus Security to arrange for an escort.

### *Emergency Procedures*

- The University emergency number is 554-2911.
- There are telephones on campus that can be used to report an emergency.

### *Suspicious Person or Crimes in Progress*

- Should you witness a crime in progress, or other emergency, use the campus emergency number 4-2911.

### *Personal Threats and Harassment*

- Disruptive behavior on campus will not be tolerated. Threats or acts of violence should be reported to Campus Security. If the act appears to represent an immediate threat or harm to an individual, it should be reported at once to Campus Security or 911.

### *Evacuations*

- Faculty and staff should assist with room and building evacuations, and be aware of those needing special assistance. All students should become familiar with the designated rally points for their buildings, which are listed on the Campus Security website [www.unomaha.edu/security](http://www.unomaha.edu/security) under "Emergency Procedures."

### *Alert System*

- A system to help facilitate emergency communications has been installed on the north and south campus. Announcements are distributed from Campus Security to building public address systems or speakers located in building corridors. When announcements are made, strobe lights will flash to notify the hearing impaired to seek assistance.
- The system will be particularly helpful during tornado warnings. The announcement will alert building occupants to seek shelter and again later when the warning has ended. The alert system also can be used to announce University closings, confirm evacuations for fire or chemical release or other emergency conditions.
- More information on campus emergency procedures can be found on the Campus Security website.

### *Parking & Traffic*

- Shuttle service is provided from the South Campus lots 5,6,7 and 9 – permit required.
- Remote parking is provided from the Crossroads Mall Parking Structure at 72 and Cass Streets – no permit required.
- Contact Campus Security for a shuttle schedule and remote parking locations.

### *Lost and Found*

- Campus Security maintains the lost and found system. Contact Campus Security for lost items.

### *Fingerprints*

- The Campus Security Department provides a fingerprinting service for individuals who require fingerprints for local, state and federal positions and for children of students, staff, faculty and alumni.

### *Blue light Emergency Phones*

- Blue Light Emergency Phones are located throughout campus. Use the phones to report emergencies or contact Campus Security for assistance.

### *Operation I.D.*

- Your stereo tape deck, calculator or other personal belongings may be engraved to aid in finding lost or stolen property.
- Stop by the Campus Security Office and check out an engraver and instructions to engrave your property.

### *Medical Emergency/Personal Injury*

- Call 4-2911 to report a medical emergency or a personal injury. Campus Security officers will respond and render assistance.
- Campus Security officers are trained to provide basic first aid, CPR and the use of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator).

### *Personal Property*

- The University is not responsible for personal property. Individuals are responsible for safeguarding their own property. Loss of personal property should be reported to Campus Security.

### *Theft or Damaged Property*

- Should you have items stolen or damaged, report the incident as soon as possible to Campus Security.

### *Incident Reporting*

- Incidents requiring immediate action include: fire, environmental spills, medical conditions, property damage, disruptive behavior and crimes in progress.
- Persons involved with or observing these types of incidents should call Campus Security at 554-2911. Campus Security will dispatch officers to the scene, and if required, contact 911.
- If you call 911 directly, also notify Campus Security to help coordinate the response and expedite travel to the emergency scene. Emergency information provided by the caller should include: building, floor, room number, call back number and nature of the emergency.

# 554-2648

[www.unomaha.edu/security](http://www.unomaha.edu/security)



# Maverick athletes respond to Tim Hardaway's anti-gay remarks

JAMEE CLASEN  
PEOPLE EDITOR

On Wednesday, Feb. 9, former NBA player John Amaechi made headlines around the world when he became the first professional basketball player to openly identify himself as gay.

Amaechi, whose career with the NBA ended three years ago, spent five seasons in the NBA with Orlando, Utah and Cleveland.

On Feb. 14, former Miami Heat guard Tim Hardaway said on a radio show that he would not want a gay

player on his team.

"You know, I hate gay people, so I let it be known," Hardaway said. "I don't like gay people and I don't like to be around gay people. I am homophobic. I don't like it. It shouldn't be in the world or in the United States."

Hardaway went on to say that he would distance himself from a gay teammate, and that he does not think a gay man should be allowed in a locker room.

The Gateway spoke with athletes on campus, to see what they had to say about Hardaway's comments.

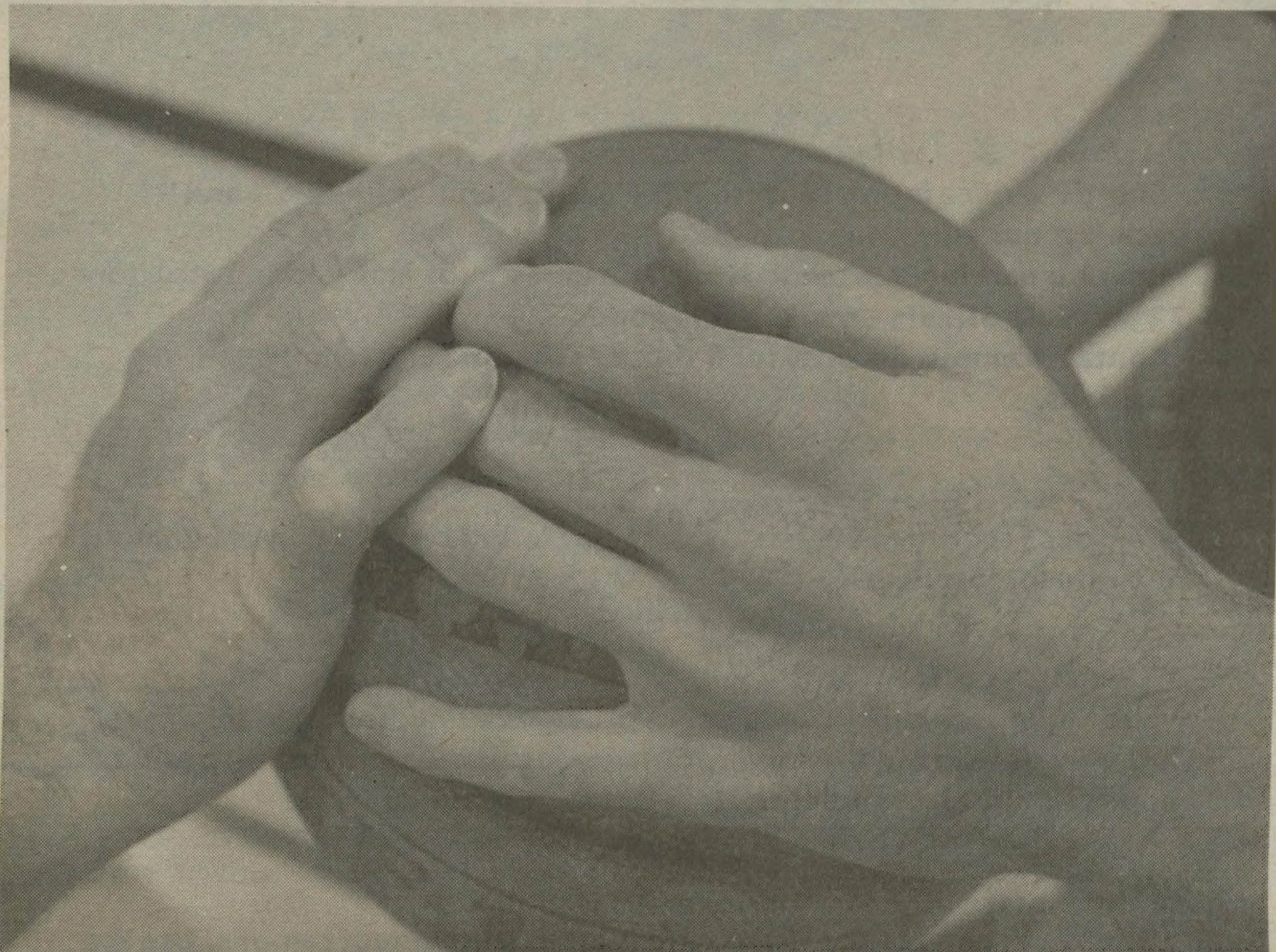


photo illustration by Michelle Bishop

After his incendiary remarks about homosexuals, NBA superstar Tim Hardaway changed the name of his Florida car wash, taking his moniker off of the establishment's signage. The former NBA All-Star has also cancelled appearances. The remarks have triggered debate among athletes and sports fans alike regarding homosexuals on the fields and courts of competition.

## Maverick Voices

JAMEE CLASEN  
PEOPLE EDITOR



Nate Oviatt - senior wrestler

"He's entitled to his own opinion. It's not my opinion, but I think it's a pretty typical response for an athlete. But that doesn't make it right."

Zach Miller - junior football player

"I guess that's his opinion. If John Amaechi wants to be gay, he can be gay. Either way, it doesn't bother me."



Kelsie Satorie - sophomore dance team member

"I think that [Tim Hardaway] should be the bigger man and apologize for his comments. I think the people interviewing him wanted controversy. They're the ones trying to cause trouble."

Bryan Mendlik - sophomore and former baseball player

"Whether he thinks that or not, he shouldn't have said that. It's just not something you say out loud."



Sara Kampschnieder - freshmen volleyball player

"I think it's his right to say that, but he shouldn't be publicly announcing his feelings."

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# University of Illinois prepares to retire Chief Illiniwek amid controversy

JODI S. COHEN  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE  
(MCT)

CHICAGO - Unless a judge stops them, University of Illinois officials will announce Friday that Chief Illiniwek, the controversial and storied mascot who has performed for 81 years, will dance for the last time next week.

University officials had made extensive preparations for Friday's announcement. But according to a source familiar with the university's plan, the process took a turn Thursday when the two students who portray the chief filed a lawsuit against the university and the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

The students are seeking a restraining order that would prevent the university from dumping the chief and would lift the NCAA's sanctions against the university's sports teams. A Champaign County judge will hear their application Friday morning in Urbana.

The university will decide how to proceed after that hearing, the source said.

The chief, a barefoot student who performs at athletic events in

a buckskin costume and feather headdress, made his first appearance on Oct. 30, 1926, during halftime of the Illinois-Pennsylvania football game. The tradition would end Wednesday at Assembly Hall, during halftime of the varsity men's basketball game against Michigan, the final home game this season for the Illini.

Retiring the chief would be a victory for those who have pressured the university for years to dump the mascot, which they say is humiliating and creates a hostile environment on campus.

It also would open the way for the university to host postseason games, currently prohibited by the NCAA because Chief Illiniwek violates the organization's rules, including next month's National Invitation Tournament in basketball.

But the university's decision would be a bitter defeat for those who have lobbied to keep Chief Illiniwek, saying it is a revered tradition that honors Native American culture. It also could mean a hit in alumni donations as the university embarks on a multibillion-dollar fundraising campaign.

Steven Raquel, who portrayed the

chief in 1992 and '93, said he would be disappointed if the tradition ended with only a few days' notice.

"It is a dishonorable ending to 80 years of an honorable tradition," Raquel said. "The tradition and the origins and the efforts that we have made over the years have only been done in respect of the history of Illinois and the history of the Illinois tribe. To see that linkage and that appreciation go by the wayside . . . without an opportunity to find common ground is disappointing."

Raquel said university officials did not tell the Council of Chiefs, the group of 27 living alumni who portrayed Illiniwek, about their decision.

Others, however, applauded the plan.

"It would be the end of the chief, but the beginning of finally having our voices heard," said Charlotte Wilkenson, 32, a Native American graduate student. "This will be a time when we finally honor the people who have been fighting the issue, who have been saying all along to retire the chief in name, in symbol, in performance."

In 2005 the NCAA ruled that

Chief Illiniwek and some mascots at other universities were "hostile and abusive." The resulting sanctions have prevented the university from hosting men's tennis and women's soccer championship games.

Last month, university board of trustees Chairman Lawrence Eppley said a decision about the chief's future would be made this year in response to the NCAA ruling. Eppley did not return a call seeking comment Thursday.

The students' lawsuit against the university and the NCAA alleges that being forced to abandon their positions as chief would violate, among other things, their freedom of speech, academic freedom and future economic earnings.

The students are Dan Maloney, who performs at men's football and basketball games, and assistant chief Logan Ponce, who performs at women's basketball and volleyball games.

According to their complaint, retiring the chief would damage their reputations and jeopardize their ability to receive academic credit. The students receive credit from the School of Music for portraying

See **ILLINIWEK**: Page 15

From **POKER**: Page 4

out for this year's event, but they are anticipating a large crowd.

John explained that lack of advertising was probably the reason the tournaments had small crowds in the past.

"This year, hopefully, since we've started advertising it a bit more, we're expecting a little bit more [money] to come in for the McCauley Center," he said.

"It has the potential to be absolutely massive," Mackevicius added.

The event is even safe for amateurs. This year, like previous tournaments, they expect many of the players to be first-timers, John said.

"The game is extremely easy to learn," Mackevicius said. "Ask anybody in a suit and tie, and they'll show you how to play."

The Theta Chi Hearts Poker Tournament will run from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom and is open to the general public. Questions about the tournament can be directed to Nate Edwards at nedwards@mail.unomaha.edu.

## Attention UNO Students

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## Hockey team splits Ohio State series with classic overtime victory

JASON GLENN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Coming into the weekend tied with Ohio State for fifth place in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association, the UNO hockey team needed some inspired play against the Buckeyes to stay in the hunt for a home playoff stand.

The Mavericks found their inspiration midway through the third period of Friday night's game -- too late to make up a four-goal Buckeye lead, but just in time to carry over to a thrilling 2-1 overtime win on Saturday.

With the victory, the 14-14-8 Mavs clinched home ice for the first round of the conference playoffs.

Before Saturday night's game, the Mavericks paid tribute to their five seniors -- Mike Eickman, Brent Kisio, Dan Knapp, Alex Nikiforuk and Scott Parse -- a squad that has seen a quantum shift in the UNO hockey program.

"The ups and downs we've been through -- from eight wins to 20, the NCAA tournament, the trip to the Joe -- it's all great stuff," said Nikiforuk. "But we just wanted to come out tonight and go out with a bang."

Go out with a bang they did, as the five seniors started the game and almost immediately gave the crowd of 7,864 something to roar about.

Just 22 seconds into the game, the Mavericks turned a broken play into a 1-0 lead as Parse and Kisio moved the puck up the ice to Nikiforuk, who flipped it into the net for his 12th goal of the season.

Coming on the heels of a frustrating loss, Coach Mike Kemp said the start was as good as it gets.

"There was a lot of emotion," he said. "It was



photo by Michelle Bishop

Senior Alex Nikiforuk wrestles with Ohio State goaltender Joseph Palmer for position on a loose puck in front of the Buckeye goal early in overtime Saturday night. Moments later junior Bryan Marshall flipped Nikiforuk's deflected shot into the net to give the Mavericks a thrilling 2-1 victory. The win assured the Mavs a home ice advantage in the first round of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association playoffs.

like a storybook to have the seniors go on the first shift out and go down and score. You couldn't have written a better book."

Despite the quick strike, OSU didn't back down.

The Buckeyes continued to press the action and peppered Mav goalie Jeremie Dupont with 10 shots over the remainder of the first period.

Dupont held off the OSU attack, though, and

carried a shutout well into the second period.

The freshman from Richmond Hill, Ontario, said the Mavs' 4-3 loss the previous night provided plenty of motivation to step up his game.

"I pride myself on being able to bounce back, and I find I play my best hockey when I play with a sense of urgency and intensity," he said. "Last

See **HOCKEY:** Page 16

## Maverick hockey stars spend day in the park with kids at Dundee rink

JASON GLENN  
SPORTS EDITOR



photo by Patrick Doty

Junior forward Tomas Klempa defends the goal against an onslaught of mini-Mavericks at the Dundee skate rink Sunday afternoon. Klempa and other hockey players spent the afternoon mentoring kids at the skate rink.

To six-year-old Cade Hopkins, Tom Cruise can't hold a candle to UNO hockey player Dan Knapp.

Cade was one of around thirty kids who showed up at the Dundee Skating Rink Sunday afternoon to get some ice time and advice from their hometown hockey heroes.

"They're bigger than any Hollywood star could be to him. He lives and breathes and eats and sleeps UNO Maverick hockey," said Jyl Hopkins, who brought her son from Millard to skate with the Maverick stars.

Hopkins said Cade had just learned to skate within the last two months and the first thing he needed help with was knowing what kind of stick he should get.

"[Knapp] talked to him and we were trying to figure out if he needed a left or a right-handed stick just by the way he was holding it," she said.

When asked what he liked the most about the day, though, Cade proved himself a dyed-in-the-wool Mav fan.

"Watching them make the goals," he

See **SKATING:** Page 9



From **SKATING:** Page 8



photo by Patrick Doty

Junior Tomas Klempa watches as his eager pupils fight for the puck in front of the Dundee rink's goal.

said.

For Knapp, the free event sponsored by the Dundee Merchants Association provided an opportunity to pass on a little of what he received as a youngster.

"Where I grew up some of

the big-time hockey players came and skated and it really meant a lot to be able to talk to them and associate with them," said Knapp. "It's good for everybody."

Chris Hysack and Phillip Lemen, both 9, are teammates on a Junior Maverick team at Tranquility Iceplex and agreed that, for the most part, skating with the big guys was definitely a lot of fun.

"Except when they pulled my shirt over my head," said Hysack after a playful lesson from UNO forward Brandon Scero on the finer points of confrontation strategy.

Ultimately, the sun-drenched day with temperatures climbing into the 40s offered a perfect backdrop for some budding icers to build lifelong memories.



photo by Patrick Doty

Five-year-old Kyle Wernli celebrates a goal or maybe just a day in the park with his favorite UNO hockey players.

And for some more experienced ones to take a glance back.

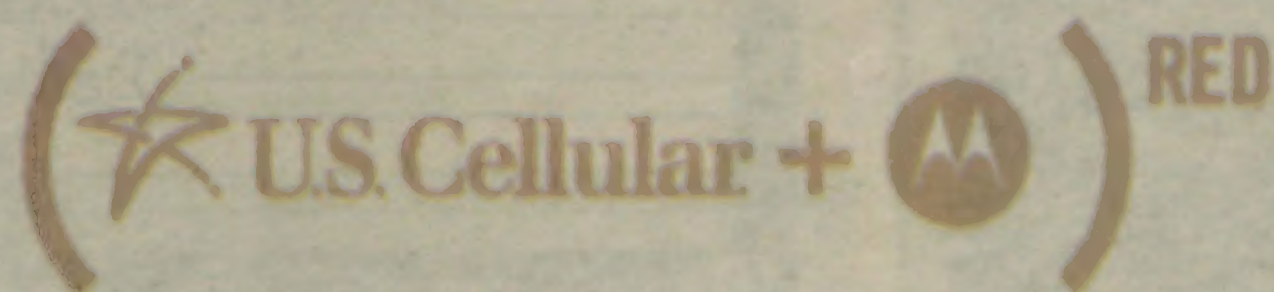
"Especially when I was going out with my parents to skate on the lake, it definitely does bring memories back," said forward Tomas Klempa. "It's fun to skate with little kids. I really enjoyed it."

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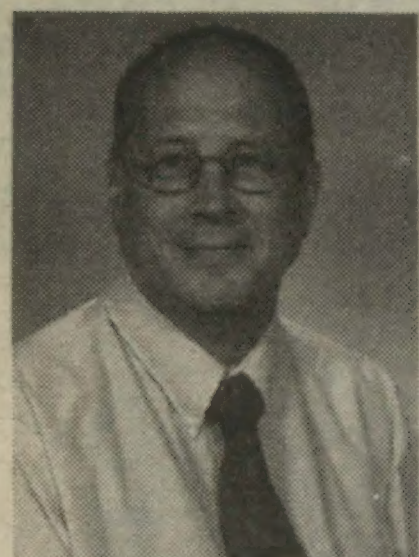
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# Runners bag school records, personal bests at Prairie Wolf Invite



JASON GLENN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite not having their own oval to train on, the UNO track and field team has sure made a habit of getting down to business once they lace up in Lincoln.

The Mavericks traveled to their home away from home, the University of Nebraska's Devaney Center, for the fourth and final time of the 2007 indoor season, and again used the world-class banked track to notch some impressive times.

Senior LaVerne Monger led the Mavs with wins in the 60-meter and 200-meter dash events, and senior Angela Kampschnieder broke one of

UNO's longest-standing records in the 600-meter run.

Monger shaved .01 off her personal best in the 60, capturing the title in 7.63 seconds and sped to a convincing 200 victory in 24.58. Both times were provisional qualifying marks for the NCAA II national meet.

By racing to a 1:35.47 fifth-place finish in the 600, Kampschnieder moved past Mary Ann Weiberg for the top spot on UNO's all-time list. Weiberg's record stood since 1993.

The 600-meter record is just the latest for Kampschnieder, who Coach Steve Smith said turned into a "standout" performer for the Mavs. On Feb. 9 and 10 at the Iowa State Classic, Kampschnieder set school records in the 600-yard run and as a member of the distance medley relay team.

The senior said her recent performances have been especially validating after a college career fraught with frustration.

"I've been through really, really hard times with track. All four years I've been through injuries, bad knees," Kampschnieder said. "So it's really nice that now all the work that I've put in is actually paying off."

Even better, she said, is that she gets to share in the success.



LaVerne Monger



Angela Kampschnieder

The Mavs also had notable performances from sophomore Pinar Saka and junior Karin Clarkson.

Saka was third in the 200 with a personal-best time of 24.90 and Clarkson was fifth at 25.48. The pair also finished 3-5 in the 400, with Saka clocking a 55.78 and Clarkson coming in at 57.77.

For some on the team, the meet offered a great opportunity to showcase their rapid development in relatively new areas of competition.

Junior Tahnee Tuenge continued to shine in the 800, an event she just added to her repertoire this season, finishing fourth in 2:14.44. And freshman Kaeli Bixler, the most promising of the Mavs' new corps of throwers, launched the shot put 42' 6" to place fifth in that event.

Smith said he knew when he recruited Bixler that she would be an immediate contributor but he hadn't envisioned her vying for a title her first year.

"If she can come in as a freshman and place third and be up there with some of the better throwers of our conference, then that's good; it's excellent," he said.

All the Mavericks' hard work in non-team scoring meets will be put to the test when they head to Vermillion, S.D., next Friday and Saturday to compete in the North Central Conference Indoor Championships.

Smith said with many UNO athletes sitting atop the NCC performance list, he likes his squad's chances, but when it comes to team scoring, there's always one name to look out for.

"South Dakota has a larger team, they have more depth," said Smith. "We have a smaller team with more quality ... they've won the conference I don't know how many years in a row. It's going to be a dogfight."



Kaeli Bixler

"I can enjoy it with the rest of my team because everyone on the team is running phenomenally well this year," said Kampschnieder.

Despite fighting off the flu, sophomore Molly Belling rounded out a Maverick 1-2 finish in the 60, edging Nebraska-Lincoln's Chi Kalu by .05 to place second in 7.74.

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photo by Patrick Doty

Senior Lacey Geitzenauer spots up as a pair of Sioux defenders try break her concentration. Geitzenauer had a career-best four three-pointers in the 81-66 loss.

## Physical rematch ends in victory for UNO men's basketball team



Zac Robinson



Keith Price



Derrin Hansen

JASON SIBSON  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The UNO men's basketball team put a halt to their five-game skid on Saturday, winning a tight one 52-50 over the University of North Dakota on Senior Day at Sapp Fieldhouse.

Guard Zac Robinson and forward Keith Price, Nebraska-Omaha's only two seniors, combined for 16 points and 11 rebounds, but it was the play of sophomore Michael Jenkins that carried the Mavericks to their 12th win of the season.

Pending a possible home conference playoff game, Jenkins recognized his two senior teammates may never play another game at the Sapp and wanted to send them off with a victory.

"It feels good to give Zac and Keith a win," said Jenkins, who had 19 points on 6-13 shooting. "It's never good to lose five in a row, and I'm glad we were able to win this game on Senior Day."

A win seemed distant for the Mavs with seven minutes left in the game, when they found themselves down 46-39 to the Fighting Sioux. Players on both sides were exhausted from a physical 30 minutes, and the two NCC rivals were trading free

throws.

Then, the will of the home crowd and the resolve to end the losing streak seemed to breathe new life into the Maverick bench. They put together an impressive 9-0 run to take a 48-46 lead, and a last-second runner in the lane by North Dakota went begging. The game ended at 52-50 and moved the Mavericks to 3-7 in conference play.

After the game, Coach Derrin Hansen reflected on another gritty battle with the Fighting Sioux.

"We had to fight for everything we got, it was a grind-it-out game," said Hansen. "And we just happened to make the last play." Hansen manipulated his bench throughout the game and was able to get 40 minutes of team ball out of his players.

"Our guys have always battled, and I've got to give them all the credit for this win."

Hansen and his team now have a home playoff game in sight, needing a win in their final two games to ensure one more contest at Sapp Fieldhouse.

Both remaining games will be played in Minnesota, starting with Minnesota Duluth on Feb. 22 and Minnesota State, Mankato Feb. 24 to end the season.

## Women's basketball outgunned by hot-handed No. 6 North Dakota

SCOTT STEWART  
NEWS EDITOR

After a strong opening sequence of plays, missed shots scuttled the Maverick women's basketball team's hopes of overcoming No. 6 North Dakota on Saturday.

The Mavs started off Senior Day, the last regular-season home game of the year, with two completed free throws by senior Carlye Jones, a layup by freshman Alyssa Green and a 3-pointer by senior Lacey Geitzenauer.

But, following a timeout by the Sioux, the Mavs' lead was diminished and finally lost by the eighth minute of play.

By halftime, UNO had held on to keep the game close, with a score of 30-35 after a jump shot by UND freshman Alys Seay fell into the basket as the buzzer sounded after pausing for a moment on the rim.

The second half was not as kind to the Mavs, with the Sioux maintaining their lead as the Mavs fought to reduce the gap. At one point eight minutes into the second half, UNO

got the score to within six, but that soon became a 13-point difference after a couple free throws, a layup and a three-pointer by the Sioux crushed the Mavs' chance to regain the lead.

UNO finished the game 15 points behind in a 81-66 loss to North Dakota.

"I thought we played hard," Coach Patty Shearer said. "We just didn't put enough shots away to win the game."

The Mavs shot 36.8 percent overall, improving a 30.0 percent first-half to a 44.4 percent second-half, but were handily outshot by UND, who averaged 51.6 percent for the game.

Geitzenauer went on to set a career-high four 3-pointers, scoring 16 points overall. Senior Karen Thies also contributed 15 points, but Green lead the Mavs with 18 overall points, along with three assists and three steals.

UNO will finish the regular season on the road in Minnesota this week, challenging Minnesota-Duluth on Thursday and Minnesota State-Mankato on Saturday.



photo by Patrick Doty

Sophomore Michael Jenkins gets manhandled on his way to the hoop by a North Dakota player. Jenkins led the Mavericks to a hardscrabble 52-50 conference victory.

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photo by Patrick Doty

Bands like Nada Surf that were brought to Omaha by 1% Productions will now have another musical venue option with the Waiting Room.

## A long wait for the Waiting Room

BRIANA GEHRKEN  
STAFF WRITER

The smell of sawdust lingers in the air, along with the anticipation for opening night as 1% Production co-founders Jim Johnson and Marc Leibowitz rush to finish the renovation of their new venue, the Waiting Room.

Johnson and Leibowitz currently book a majority of their shows at Sokol at 13th and Martha streets. Their journey as business partners began when they got tired of driving to Lawrence, Kan., to see good bands, Johnson said. They decided to start bringing the music to Omaha.

Plans for their new venue have been in the works for longer than a decade, Johnson said. It was all a matter of finding that perfect location.

The club, located at 6212 Maple St. in Benson, is scheduled to open on March 9. The bar will be open daily with shows a majority of the week. It will also house the new headquarters of 1% Productions.

"We went a little bit crazier than we expected to," said Johnson.

The venue will feature all the comforts of your local bar including a pool table, dart board and intimate seating. With one very cool exception: a pinball room.

Johnson said their liquor license was approved by the city of Omaha last Tuesday and is now going through

state appeals.

"For a room this size," said Johnson, "we are definitely going to have a superior sound system." The new venue will also have an amazing lighting system, and the stage is two inches taller than Sokol's, so the views will not be lost on the people in the back.

Because the club has a capacity of 250 people, it can play host to a wide variety of intimate shows. Johnson and Leibowitz plan to diversify the bands that play on their 14 foot by 30 foot stage. Johnson said they want to book more bands with reggae, rockabilly and rock 'n' roll influences, and bring in a wider audience.

Saddle Creek also has a venue scheduled to open this spring called Slowdown. Johnson said that they will be working together and booking shows there as well. 1% will also continue booking shows at Sokol, but with less frequency.

The Waiting Room will offer music lovers from all genres a place to call home again. Somewhere that can rival the atmosphere of the Cog Factory and the comfort of the Ranch Bowl. This will start to bridge the gap that has been getting continually wider with the closing of more and more venues around the Omaha and Lincoln area.

"We just work really hard at bringing in good music," said Johnson. "Hopefully this is the next stage of growth for our business."

## Singer-songwriter Pete Yorn comes to Lincoln with Morning Day & Night Tour

ANGI SADA  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Over the phone, Pete Yorn is the kind of guy millions of teenage girls fall in love with everyday: quiet, aloof, cool and unintentionally poetic. That's just about on point for a drummer turned singer-songwriter.

In the span of about six years Yorn has gone from critical darling to critical darling with some pretty hardcore friends and an ever-growing, diverse lot of fans.

As evidence, Yorn just wrapped up a stint opening for the Dixie Chicks, who pretty much spanked the naysayers and snatched up record, album and song of the year at the Grammy Awards earlier this month.

"We were friends and they had asked me to come and write some songs for their record [Taking the Long Way]...", he said over the phone from Las Vegas. "When it was time for them to go out on tour they offered me the slot."

The soft-spoken Yorn, a New Jersey native, was able to see and be seen by a lot of people that are out of his regular 20-something fan base on that tour.

"We definitely got in front of a lot of people we normally wouldn't have the chance to be in front of," he said. "Sometimes we get little notes or e-mails from people who said they discovered me at a Dixie Chicks show."

Yorn, who released his debut album

## Religious studies student, singer demonstrates faith through song

MICHAEL MCMANUS  
A&L EDITOR

A band playing Christian rock music may seem like an oxymoron. But it's not.

Though some people may have a preconceived notion of what "Christian rock" entails, Mike Harvat, a senior religious studies major at UNO and lead singer of the Christian rock band The Perfect Paradox, is willing to prove them wrong.

"People expect Christians to hold certain biases and prejudices," said Harvat. "Whether it be towards politics, lifestyle choices, etc. We [The Perfect Paradox] don't necessarily identify with many of those beliefs."

Movies like *Saved* opened many eyes to the subculture of Christianity that exists. People wear their WWJD bracelets and ask questions like "whose down with the JC." Harvat said it's these extremely overt individuals who often distract people from the true meaning of the Christian message.

"We are more concerned with living out the Christian faith in our lives," said Harvat. "Obviously, since that is a major defining part of who we are, that goes into our music."

Harvat likes to think that his music speaks for itself, which means he doesn't need to add any extra evangelistic approaches on stage. This is the main reason he believes people are so receptive to his band.

"We don't play in bars and then yell at the people for drinking," he said. "We haven't met any real resistance from anyone in Omaha."

The band name, The Perfect Paradox, derived from something Harvat originally called lame, but after explaining the meaning, made it clear it was not.

"It came from a poem I wrote awhile back," he said. "It's kind of more or less an illusion to the idea of Christ being fully human and fully God at the same time."

Lately, Harvat has been toying around with the idea that the name could also apply to people, saying we all have the capacity for goodness, but also the capacity for great evil at the same time.

Though Harvat gets his musical inspiration from bands like Jimmy Eat World and Radiohead, the majority of his influences come from bands that get little to no airplay.

"I've discovered and fallen in love with the music of so many bands that I never would have heard if I only listened to the

radio," said Harvat.

Harvat said he's not worried if his tunes get played on the radio because his reasoning for writing songs is not airplay.

The Perfect Paradox makes up one of a few local Christian rock bands, though Harvat believes there are many more out there who have simply strayed away from the phrase "Christian" in fear of being pigeonholed into one genre.

"There has been quite a shift towards mainstream music," he said. "Christian bands don't want to be defined as merely 'christian.'"

Harvat said that even in his band there has been discussion whether or not they should identify themselves as a Christian band. Harvat said he has less of a problem with the label than some of his bandmates.

"I was born and raised with the whole Christian music scene," he said. "I am more of a tell-it-like-it-is kind of guy. These songs are about my faith, so why not call it Christian music."

Harvat doesn't know if he would get any further with his musical career if he removed the Christian label, but he is willing to do shows with whoever is willing to play with his band, no matter how people define his music.

"When we book a show, we don't go up to people and tell them we are a Christian band," he said. "We just kind of do our thing like anyone else would."

Switchfoot is a prime example of a christian rock band that remained true to its roots, which ended up paying off in the long run. Harvat said that musically Switchfoot had changed a little, but they hadn't watered down the lyrics to get ahead. "They are really open on where they stand," he said.

On the other hand, Evanescence, a band that came onto the music scene as proud Christians, walked away from that genre as soon as they had success and realized their music was being sold in Christian bookstores.

When looking at the future of his band, Harvat actually sees more of an opportunity with sticking with the label Christian rock, but putting a twist on it.

"I want to challenge Christians to ask themselves why they call themselves Christians," said Harvat. "It's not just a list of do's and don'ts. I think that people who aren't Christians would appreciate me being on stage singing that to other Christians."

See **HARVAT**: Page 16



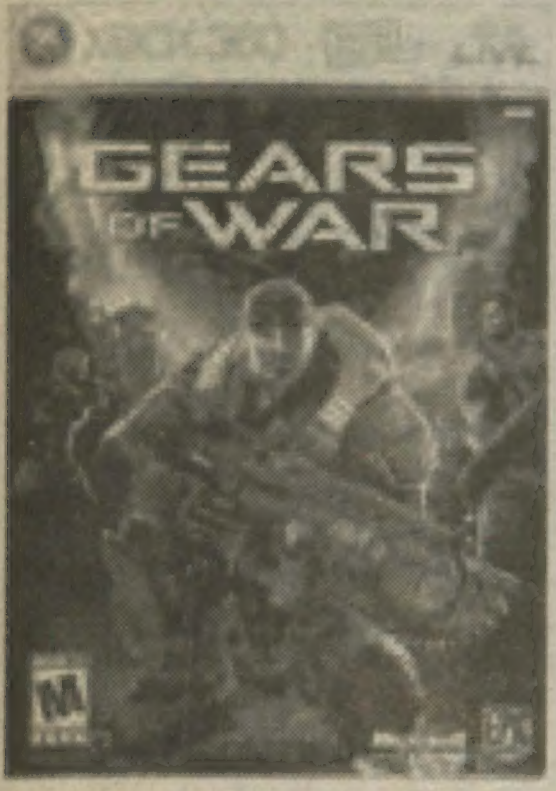
Courtesy of Mike Harvat

From left to right, Mike Harvat, John Moessner, Ben Eberly and Cherron Arens make up the christian rock band Perfect Paradox.

See **YORN**: Page 13



## Gears dominate consoles, awards in the world of video gaming



CHARLEY  
REED  
SENIOR STAFF  
WRITER

*Gears of War* big winner at IAAs

Last week signaled the 10th Annual Interactive

Achievement Awards (IAA). The awards are comparable to the Academy Awards of video games, with awards for the best games of the year being voted on by the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences.

This year the Xbox 360 game *Gears of War* from Epic Games made the biggest splash, picking up eight

awards, including several Game of the Year awards, Action/Adventure Game of the Year, Console Game of the Year and overall Game of the Year. By comparison, the next biggest winner at the event was Nintendo's *Wii Sports*, which won three awards, including Outstanding Innovation in Gaming.

*Gears of War's* biggest competition was the PC game *The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion* from Bethesda Softworks, which lost head-to-head with *Gears* at the IAAs, but won at Spike TV's Video Game Awards last December. The tie-breaker between the two games will come at the Game Developers Choice Awards in March.

*Metal Gear Solid* movie a reality  
*Variety* stated last week that Sony

See **GAMES:** Page 15

From **YORN:** Page 12



Sony BMG

Pete York will be playing at the Rococo theatre in Lincoln on Feb. 24. This show follows his stint opening up for the Dixie Chicks in their national tour.

## The quest for the ultimate burrito

COMMENTARY BY  
BRIANA GEHRKEN  
STAFF WRITER

Burritos. They're everywhere. It seems that Mexican grills just keep popping up all over Omaha. But who really has the edge on burrito satisfaction? I decided to take on the task of finding out just who has the most delicious, authentic and tasty burrito in town so you know where to go when you're in the mood for some rolled-up goodness.

Like any good science experiment, I needed a control group. Something I could use to compare each burrito equally without bias. I decided to order a chicken

burrito with black beans, rice, sour cream, cheese and mild salsa at each location and see how they stacked up against each other.

### New York Burrito

NY Burrito is home to six different tortilla choices, several specialty wraps and earned itself last place in the burrito challenge. I found that it was the least authentic of the four competing restaurants. (As it turns out, burritos are not originally from the city of New York at all.)

Despite the fact that NY Burrito offered

See **BURRITO:** Page 15

*musicforthemorningafter* in 2001, suggests that his music is a reflection of what he is seeing and where he is going in life. He also believes it's important to view each of his albums as part of an entire body of work.

"I think [my music] seems to be informed by continued experience; just kind of what I take in," he said.

Yorn, 32, is back on the road in support of his August 2006 release *Nightcrawler*. His Morning, Day and Night (named such for his three studio releases, including 2003's *Day I Forgot*) tour rolls into Lincoln, Neb. and takes the stage at the Rococo

Theatre on Feb. 24 with piano wunderkind Aqualung warming up the crowd.

Tickets for the show are still available online at etix.com for \$20. Tickets are also available at the Rococo Theatre Box Office by phone 402-476-4467 or by visiting rococotheatre.com

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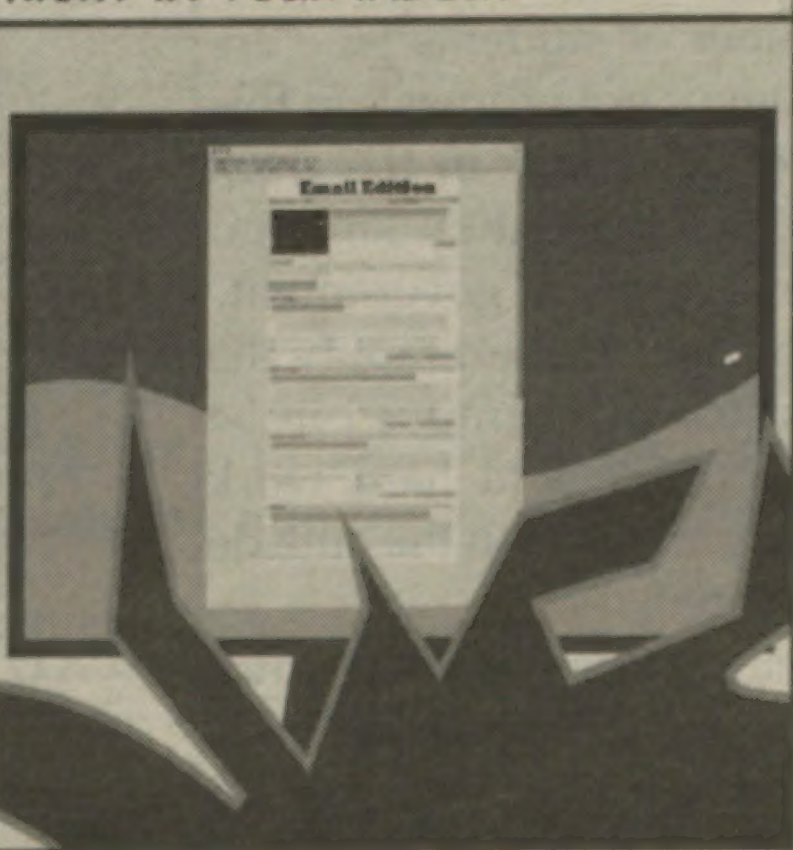
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## A few bits of war musings

As Far As I'm Concerned



Matthew Lytle

For the past two months, with the exception of the "100 Hours" antics, what has been the biggest headline to come out from our elected

the Senate is taking this resolution to the floor, even though two of their own resolutions never made it past the procedural roadblock of the filibuster. Right, they can't pass two of their own "resolutions," and they think that the House's resolution will fare better? This is just too good.

But, if the president wants to do more than practice his three-pointer with the resolutions, I've got an idea that'll probably shut them up. All he has to do is say to Congress, "You think you can do a better job than I can? Here's the keys; you run the war. But, remember, any screw-ups that happen from now on are your fault, not mine."

Watch, he hands control over to Congress, and Nancy Pelosi and other high-ranking Congressional Democrats will trip over themselves to race to the podium and say, "Oh, no, Mr. President, you're doing a fine job running the war." They'll be tripping over themselves to give control back to the president.

Why? They don't want the responsibility of actually running this war. Any problems they might face in their micro-management would make them look bad in their attempts to regain full power, and, if they take full responsibility, they can't blame their slip-ups on President Bush anymore.

Pelosi, in a press conference after the resolution's passage, said the resolution is in response to the message the electorate sent in November. Really, Madam Speaker? If the November election were a referendum of the Iraq War, then how in the hell are there still Republicans in Congress? If it really and truly were, the only Congressional Republicans still there would be the senators not affected by that election cycle.

Two months have passed since the keys to Congress were handed over to Democrats, and aside from Pelosi's "100 Hours" package, these non-binding resolutions are all they have to show for it? Resolutions that can just as quickly land up in the presidential wastebasket or recycled as new White House letterhead? If this is the best that they can do, I'm actually not too worried about the next two years, but that's as far as I'm concerned....

leaders? Non-binding resolutions, supposedly "bipartisan" in nature, opposing the president's plans to increase troop levels in Iraq.

Non-binding resolutions? What is this, the United Nations? We're paying the last two months of Congress' salaries, and the most they have to show for it are statements that all the president really has to do is crumple up and practice his three-point shot at the Oval Office's garbage can. Anybody else want their money back?

Here's another point that just boils my blood, something that's a major feat to accomplish in me in the first place: This "resolution" just passed by the House was "bipartisan." OK, maybe I'm some simple, old fogey, but where I come from, bipartisan means 50-50 Republicans to Democrats. It's stuff of pure compromise. But, this resolution, if the roll call vote means anything at all, means that it's anything but what I'd call bipartisan.

According to the Clerk of the House's Web site, clerk.house.gov, 17 Republicans and 229 Democrats made up the 246 "Yea" votes on this resolution. Now, according to the percentages here, that's 93.1 percent to 6.91 percent Democrats to Republicans. Does that sound like "bipartisan" to you, where one party has 13 times more votes than the other on something that both parties supposedly agree on?

If this truly were a bipartisan response to the president's plan, wouldn't it be more of a 123-123 split of the Yea vote? Actually, if this were a true bipartisan effort, there wouldn't be a single Nay vote registered.

And, even now as I'm writing this,

## Tax-free textbook aids middle-class better than repealing estate tax

Giving financial assistance to college students is a tricky task for government officials, who have to balance the needs of the state and nation with those of students who sometimes are struggling just to survive, sometimes are more than adequately funded throughout their educational careers by their jobs, parents, private scholarships or other means.

Nevertheless, our government officials rightly acknowledge education as a priority in their rhetoric, claiming that enabling students to attend college is a priority.

Of course, as most people at a university must realize, getting to college is only the start of the battle. Getting through it and earning your degree can be challenging at times for the best of us, and financial problems only intensify these roadblocks.

Most people at a university must also realize that textbooks, along with student fees and other miscellaneous expenses in addition to tuition, can pose problems for students struggling with a meager bank account.

For many of us, selling back textbooks is what provides that extra money needed to buy Christmas presents or scrape together food money for the summer. But, buying textbooks at the beginning of the semester is just the opposite. It can entail wondering where those hundreds of dollars will come from and how many paychecks it will take to get that always-smaller pad of money in your account back.

A bill proposed in the Nebraska Legislature and scheduled to be considered during a hearing this Friday, Feb. 23, would help to reduce the burden shopping for textbooks in Nebraska.

Legislative Bill 32 would exempt "college textbooks ... and related workbooks required or recommend for a course at an institution of higher

Sinister Slant



Scott Stewart

education" from both sales and use taxes for "full-time and part-time students enrolled at institutions of higher education if the student presents a valid student identification card."

What would this really do for students, though?

According to estimates by UNL's student government,

the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, this would save college students between \$50 and \$75 per year, costing the state between \$2.5 and \$4.5 million. An ASUN resolution to support LB 32 cites a statistic from the *Lincoln Journal-Star* saying 65 percent did not purchase all the required textbooks for their classes; the hope is that reducing the cost would help to reverse this trend.

In a publicly stunt, ASUN External Vice President Matt Connolly gave a press release last month in front of 408 packets of Top Ramen noodles to give an example of what \$65 could buy a student, according to UNL's student paper, the *Daily Nebraskan*.

The simple truth is LB 32 would put more money in the pockets of college students, many of whom could certainly use the extra cash.

So why would anyone oppose this measure? They have different plans for the money.

Gov. Dave Heineman's proposal to cut taxes on the middle class and shift state spending to compensate, including reducing the budget increase for the University of Nebraska to the third-lowest rate in 40 years, would be impacted by the potential loss of around \$3 million caused by LB 32.

Some people claim there simply isn't money to cut the sales and use taxes on textbooks. They say we need that \$3 million for state-funded projects, including the University of Nebraska.

See **STEWART**: Page 15

## Student government should represent all students

Bitter with Age



Angi Sada

We all know the nursery rhyme: *What are little girls made of? Sugar and spice and everything nice. That's what little girls are made of. What are little boys made of? Snip and snails and puppy dog tails. That's what little boys are made of.*

But what about big kids? Or young adults, for that matter?

That couldn't be answered in campus politics, because very few of the members of UNO's governing student body have been acting like much more than children in a popularity contest.

The snide asides they deliver in and out of session are a testament to their overall ineffectiveness. The mean things say out in public about each other and a certain unnamed student publication directly in front of the aforementioned publication's editor are brilliant illustrations of how unprofessional they are becoming.

Moreover, it is evidence that a new group of students need to enter the ring of on-campus political activity. It is irrelevant who is a member of the greek system or not. It is irrelevant who is the star athlete or the beauty queen in the making.

What is relevant is the number of students who are not helped or represented by student government on this campus. There is a great deal of relevance in the work of the few students from outside of the tightly knit and tightly wound circles that make up student government.

Student senators like Gabriel Gonzalez exemplify the sort of spirit and integrity of which this campus can be proud. Gonzalez' professional attitude and hard work will ensure that students who are normally on the outside looking in will no longer feel isolated.

The inclusion of an agency designed to cater to the needs and concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and queer members of the UNO student body will make the campus safer for everyone involved. Gonzalez' work to that end is admirable to say the least. Taking up the private struggles of others in a very public forum is a true act of compassion and courage.

See **SADA**: Page 15

### WRITE TO US!

All readers are welcome to send their opinion or comments to the *Gateway*. Letters can be sent by mail, e-mail or fax. All letters should include the writer's name, address and phone number. Contact information will never be published. The *Gateway* reserves the right to reject letters or edit letters for clarity and space.

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The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for publication. Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.



From **BURRITO**: Page 13



photo by Bre Gehrken

Chipotle may be one of the more popular burrito hot spots in Omaha, but it didn't take home the prize as the ultimate.

the best selection out of the competition, it was not as tasty as the rest. The "spicy chicken" was bland and the "Mexican rice" was far from flavorful. The tortilla was pretty flimsy as well and ripped apart easily when I first bit into it.

However, the burrito is fairly large and guaranteed to fill you up. You do get free chips with your meal and the staff was extremely friendly. The cost was one of the cheapest at \$5.65 including tax, and with good reason.

### Chipotle Mexican Grille

Sliding into third place is Chipotle Mexican Grille. At \$5.75, it was not worth every penny. Despite the hype about Chipotle being an amazing lunch destination, I found that it was not as tasty as the front runners.

The chicken was too smoky and very dry. The mild salsa, though delicious, was not very mild. A lemon flavor in the rice was rather pungent and overpowering. Chipotle did have one of the biggest burritos out of the bunch but the service wasn't the best. Some employees looked like they needed a break and perhaps a burrito themselves.

Though it was more authentic in taste and relatively easy to eat, it still was lacking a punch of flavor and I knew my search had to continue.

### Taco Del Mar

At Taco Del Mar I encountered the messiest of the four burritos. It was very hard to eat and almost required a fork. However, they did have a disclaimer that read, "Peel as you go. Don't unwrap, or it's in your lap!" Perhaps I should have paid heed to their signage.

Besides the messy factor, this was the closest competitor with my burrito of choice. It was delicious and very authentic. Taco Del Mar has two sizes of burritos: Mondo and Mondito. I



photo by Bre Gehrken

The homemade tortilla, fresh meat and produce helped Pancheros take home the title as ultimate burrito.

found that the Mondito was relatively the same size as the competitors and at \$5.11 it was by far the best deal.

This burrito also had the best texture out of the other four. However, the chicken was shredded and not grilled like the others, and was borderline Taco Bell in flavor: fake Mexican, or Fexican, as I like to call it.

So, who has the ultimate burrito, you ask?

### Pancheros

After much debate and intestinal scrutiny from eating four burritos in less than two days, I decided that Pancheros is the home to the ultimate burrito. This decision went against all of my preconceived notions, but I found despite a few drawbacks, they had the best authentic taste out of the competition.

Every ingredient was perfectly balanced. The chicken was tender, the salsa was amazing and even the rice was perfectly moist. However, it was the most expensive out of the four burritos, at \$5.72 including tax.

The tortilla was also very hard to peel away from the wrapper. After some consideration I concluded that it must have not been fully cooked. Pancheros hand-makes their tortillas to order, first pressing the dough and then cooking them on the grill before assembling your burrito. Muy delicious.

I decided that the taste outweighed the sticky tortilla and blew away the competition. Combined with their friendly staff, I think the overall experience earned them first place in my quest.

So the next time you feel a craving for some Mexican cuisine, I highly recommend Pancheros for your lunch-time destination. They are fast, efficient and very delicious, if you are willing to spend just a few more cents on authentic flavor.

From **STEWART**: Page 14

There have even been arguments put forth that giving students this tax break would necessarily result in increased tuition, because the Unicameral would, I suppose, take it upon itself to vindictively cut money from the university to make up the difference.

But, if we desperately need this \$3 million in the state budget, then why are we cutting taxes at all? In particular, why are we taking a projected loss of \$30.4 million over the next two years for a proposed repeal of the estate tax, which only really provides relief for millionaires.

Last time I checked, college students were much more likely to

be middle class than millionaires were. So if we're going to provide immediate tax relief for the middle class, then repealing sales and use taxes on textbook makes a lot more sense than repealing the estate tax.

It would cost about as third as much from the state coffers, too.

I just can't accept the argument that there isn't enough money for this proposal or that that the cause isn't worthy enough, when repealing the estate tax and other initiatives seem to be worth our while. The Unicameral should embrace LB 32 and seize this opportunity to provide relief and support to the very people they claim to be interested in helping.

From **GAMES**: Page 13

Pictures officially has the rights to the film version of the classic 1998 video game, which has sold more than 20 million units. The announcement of a movie adaptation from creator Hideo Kojima at last May's E3 convention created numerous Internet rumors, but this is the first official news of a film being in the works.

Because of Kojima's masterful storytelling, the video game version of *Metal Gear Solid* actually plays out like a movie, so there is speculation about who would best fit the roles of the major characters. However, many people believe that the only person who can play the roles of the game's key characters, Solid Snake and Liquid Snake, is the man who has been their voices through the last three installments: David Hayter.

Regardless of who fills the numerous casting holes, Kojima, the creator of the entire *Metal Gear* universe, has been named as an executive producer on the film. Not only that, but he's made it very clear that Uwe Boll, director of horrible video-game-to-film adaptations like

*House of the Dead* and *Alone in the Dark*, won't ever get his hands on this project.

That wraps it up for the biggest gaming stories for the past week. Here are some hot upcoming games to be on the lookout for:

### Feb. 20

*Virtua Fighter 5* - PS3  
*Jade Empire* - PC

### Feb. 27

*The Sims 2: Seasons Expansion Pack* - PC  
*Mario Party 8* - Wii  
*Major League Baseball 2K7* - Xbox 360, PS3, Xbox, PS2, PSP

### March 8

*F.E.A.R.* - PS3  
*Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon Advanced*  
*Warfighter 2* - Xbox 360, PS3  
*Rayman Raving Rabbids* - NintendoDS, Xbox 360

From **ILLINIWEK**: Page 7

Chief Illiniwek, according to the complaint.

"As has been the case for many former students who have portrayed Chief Illiniwek, many valuable employment and career opportunities and professional associations have been opened to those who have had the privilege and honor of portraying Chief Illiniwek," according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit also argues that the NCAA failed to provide due process to the students and the university when it issued the sanctions, citing a 1991 state law that requires certain procedures, such as hearings, before penalties can be imposed.

In a similar lawsuit in North Dakota, a state district judge granted a preliminary injunction in November that allowed the University of North Dakota to keep its "Fighting Sioux" name and use of Native American imagery without NCAA penalties pending a trial.

The U. of I. students' attorney, Brent Holmes, did not return calls for comment. Maloney said he couldn't comment until after Friday's hearing.

NCAA spokesman Bob Williams said Thursday that the NCAA believes its sanctions are legal.

"We intend to aggressively defend our position if it comes to a court hearing," Williams said. "We not only have the right but also the obligation

to ensure our NCAA championships are conducted in an atmosphere free of racial stereotyping and one in which all of our student athletes, athletic staff and fans feel comfortable."

Maneuvering over the chief has accelerated in recent weeks.

Last month the Oglala Sioux tribe that sold the university some of the chief's regalia, including moccasins, peace pipe pouch, breastplate and war bonnet with eagle feathers, demanded them back. The university later found documentation that it already had returned the eagle-feathered headdress to the tribe at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

On Feb. 1 university officials held a campus-wide forum to address racism on campus after a student who opposed the chief was threatened on an Internet site.

Last week, the Council of Chiefs sent a letter to university President B. Joseph White asking for ownership of the chief trademark.

Roger Huddleston, co-founder of the Honor the Chief Society, a pro-chief group, said he would be interested in how things sort out after the court hearing. But after years of debates about the chief, this one may not end after all Friday, he said.

"It is never over until it's over," he said.

(Chicago Tribune staff reporter Neil Milbert contributed to this report.)

From **SADA**: Page 14

By simply being there and being a voice for students from outside the cloistered box that comprises student government, Gonzalez proved that one person could spark positive momentum.

That mere act is more important than bus rides to football games and \$400 desks. It is more relevant to the needs of students than any \$200 banner.

More students from beyond the traditional group of candidates should take a cue from the 2008 presidential hopefuls. They should start exploring their options to become a part of and salvage the organization that is

supposed to be representing all students on campus.

While it seems intimidating to become a part of a seemingly exclusive group, it is much more frightening to acquiesce power to a group of individuals who know nothing about you or the struggles you face as a student on this campus.

It is possible for one person to perpetuate change. Get into student government. Usurp the rule of a disconnected few and return it to the people for whom they are supposed to be working. Make positive changes to keep this campus one of which student's can be proud.



From **HOCKEY**: Page 8

Maverick goalie Jeremie Dupont stretches wide to make a pad save towards the end of the first period in Saturday's game against Ohio State. Dupont maintained a shutout until 13:00 into the second and finished with 17 saves in the UNO win.

photo by Michelle Bishop

night was just fuel for me to play better tonight."

Despite Dupont's stingy netminding, the Buckeyes found their way onto the scoreboard 13:00 into the second period when Mathieu Beaudoin's shot dribbled through Dupont's pads and tied the score at 1-1.

With both teams clamping down on defense, neither side got off more than three shots in the third period and regulation expired in a dead heat.

Having gone 17 straight overtime games without a win, the Mavericks knew they had to make something happen.

After winning the faceoff, UNO closed the game out almost exactly the way it began.

Only this time it was junior Bryan Marshall who got the glory.

Knapp controlled the puck and fed Nikiforuk, who launched a shot at OSU goaltender Joseph Palmer.

Palmer made the save but the puck landed just outside the crease in front of Marshall, who flipped it in 29 seconds into overtime, sending the

Maverick faithful into a frenzy.

Marshall, who said the game-winning goal was probably the biggest of his career, shrugged off his heroics as being in the right place at the right time.

"It was just 'johnny-on-the-spot,' [Nikiforuk] got a tip, hit the goalie's pad and luckily the rebound bounced right onto my stick," he said. "Not going to miss that one."

The win kept the Mavs deadlocked with Ohio State in the CCHA standings, though Western Michigan moved ahead of both teams for sole possession of fifth place.

But with only a two-game road trip to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks remaining on the regular season schedule, the important victory was a guaranteed top-eight finish that means UNO will start their postseason run in Omaha.

"We're not going to have the anchor on our neck of having to worry about home ice in the playoffs," said Kemp. "That pressure now is lifted and we can focus on going up there and really playing for the right reasons."

From **HARVAT**: Page 12

Since there are so many negative connotations with being a Christian, Harvat wants to show other Christians that they should disassemble some of those misconceptions by doing living a Christian life the right way.

When combining school, working at his local church and playing in a rock band, Harvat is presented with a pretty full schedule. Even with his full schedule, he knows that having a successful band is something that will take time.

"Some people tend to be picky and have lofty goals of selling out Sokol auditorium right away," he said. "That is not going to happen for most bands doing the local thing. You don't begin to see the fruits of your labor until you are at it for a couple years."

If Harvat has learned anything from playing in his band for the past couple years, it is to never turn down an opportunity to play and to never be discouraged by the number of people who show up to a performance.

"When we first started playing, we were playing for 10 or 20 people," he said. "Then we got an opportunity to play at LifeFest, one of the largest Christian music festivals, where we got to play in front of a crowd of hundreds."

Harvat stresses that no matter how many people show up, everybody who comes to a show is an opportunity to do your best.

Though Harvat's band has been at it for two years now, they plan on continuing to share their music and inadvertently preaching love and acceptance through Jesus Christ.

"We are playing what we know, making music that we love and enough people are enjoying it that it's worth pursuing."

To check out Harvat's band, The Perfect Paradox, go to [myspace.com/mikeharvat](http://myspace.com/mikeharvat)



photo courtesy of Mike Harvat

Harvat and his band mates are willing to play with anyone who is willing to accept them as they are. Harvat said that his band doesn't hold biases and prejudices.

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### HELP WANTED

Athletic/Recreational Programs Assistant

Like working with youth in a recreational setting? Great part-time position! You will oversee athletic and recreational activities of youth residents at The Omaha Home for Boys. Excellent facilities. Requirements: Must be able to participate in physical activities and motivate youth, be a good swimmer, supervise the boys' locker room, and have a valid driver's license. Hours: 25 hours per week Sept through May - 3pm to 9pm weekdays and 1pm to 9pm weekends. During the summer months hours increase to about 40 hours per week. EOE. Omaha Home for Boys at 4343 No 52nd Street. Phone: 457-7092. Email: [hr@omahahomeforboys.org](mailto:hr@omahahomeforboys.org)

Assistant House Parent  
New full time position. In "relief" role, will work in a family style environment with up to 8 boys in a cottage in residential group home. Three day schedule (72 hours) on duty and six days off - 16 hr day with 8 hrs sleep. During work, will stay in living quarters in cottage. Requirements: Must be 21, HS diploma - some college preferred. Valid driver's license. Paid training and excellent benefits. Call to inquire about how this could fit with your class schedule! EOE.  
Omaha Home for Boys  
4343 No 52nd Street  
Omaha, NE 68104  
Ellen at 402-457-7092  
[hr@omahahomeforboys.org](mailto:hr@omahahomeforboys.org)  
Earn \$2500+monthly and more to type simple ads online.  
[www.DataAdEntry.com](http://www.DataAdEntry.com)

The Citrus Lounge is now hiring bartenders & waitstaff. Please apply in person, Mon-Sat after 3pm. 14616 West Center Rd.

Fitness Trainers needed at Fitness Together. Will certify. Great career opportunities. Morning and evening shifts available. Call Nick (402) 932-5346.

PRAIRIE LIFE FITNESS  
132nd & Center.  
MALE COURTESY SERVICES.  
PT Evening & Weekend shifts. For Individuals who are:  
-Dependable  
-Hardworking  
-Ability to multi-task  
\$6.50/hr + FREE Gym Membership. Apply at the Front Desk or  
[www.prairielife.com](http://www.prairielife.com)

### HOUSING

APTS., HOUSES and sleeping rms. for rent, roommate lists - call UNO off-campus Housing Referral Service at 554-2383 or stop in the Admin. Office, Milo Bail Student Center.

### FOR RENT

Willow Park Apartments  
And Townhomes  
AVAILABLE NOW:  
1 Bedroom apartments  
2 Bedroom with Den  
2 Bedroom Townhomes  
3 Bedroom apartments  
Washer and dryer included!  
Just minutes from the interstate!  
9605 Park Drive  
Omaha, NE 68127  
402-339-1110  
[www.broadmoorcc.com](http://www.broadmoorcc.com)

New 2-bedroom apartment in field club area. All amenities. \$750/month. 960-3760.

University Place Apartments. 551 So 35th St. Large 2 Bedroom/1 Bath. Completely renovated w/electrical, plumbing, high-speed. Hardwood floors/tile kitch & baths. Off street parking and on-site laundry facility. Heat/Water paid. Reserve for next semester! Call Gina at 990-3927 for showing.

### ROOMMATE WANTED

Share large 4 bedroom home with 3 other females, 1 room available. Utilities/phone/cable paid. Near UNO, 57th between Leavenworth & Pacific. \$380. 250-2909.

### FOR SALE

Men's Watches - all in great condition! Selling a collection as a group or separately: Nike Oregon Compass Series; Nike Oregon Alt 1; Tommy Bahama; Seiko Automatic; Nike Triax; Ironman Triathlon; Timex Ironman. I can bring on campus if you'd like to see. Contact Marge @ 250-3098.

'95 VW JETTA. VR6 Engine, 5 speed, leather interior, 108,000 miles. RUNS GREAT! \$3600 or best offer. Call after noon at 321-3885.

### EVENTS

Citrus Lounge.  
14616 West Center Rd. 934-4320.  
Every Wed. night is college night! \$2 cover, \$2 you call its all night.